

## **Zechariah and Elizabeth**

Luke 1:1-25

by Don Falkos

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During the time when Herod the Great was king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah and his wife was Elizabeth. They were good people. They obeyed all of God's commands and regulations as best they could. God was pleased with them. But they had never been able to have children. Zechariah and Elizabeth were now quite old – well beyond child-bearing years. But they had never ceased to pray for a child.

Once when Zechariah was serving in the Temple, he went into the Court of the Priests, to burn incense. Suddenly, an angel appeared. Zechariah was petrified.

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him John. He will be a great servant of God with the same spirit and power as Elijah, the prophet of old. He will bring many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will bring parents and children together again. He will convince the disobedient to accept the wisdom of God. He will get people ready for the coming of the Lord."

"How can I believe all of this is going to happen? My wife and I are both very old."

"I am Gabriel! I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to tell you this good news. Since you do not believe me, you will be unable to speak until after the birth of your son."

Zechariah completed his time of service in the Temple, and then he went home. Soon after, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She was overjoyed.